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15 July 1985

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TO: Mr. Otto J. Reich, S/LPD, State Department  
FROM:  DD/ALA, CIA/DDI  
SUBJECT: Review of Paper on Human Rights in Cuba

1. We believe this paper, in general, portrays the situation as it exists in Cuba today. When discussing specifics, however, the paper has several factual weaknesses relating to detail and history that combined detract from its overall quality and potential impact. To cite a few examples:

- 1) The paper mentions four (municipal, regional, provincial, national) levels of government; the regional level was eliminated in an administrative restructuring of the country in 1976.
- 2) The paper mentions a Ministry of Propaganda; the Castro regime has never had a ministry called the Ministry of Propaganda.
- 3) The paper mentions the Cuban Radio Institute and the Cuban Broadcasting Institute; the correct title is the Cuban Radio and Television Broadcasting Institute.
- 4) The paper indicates information is controlled by the Cuban Radio Institute (sic) and that the government censors news; it is the Department of Revolutionary Orientation of the Cuban Communist Party Central Committee that determines/controls what news or other information is broadcast or printed by any entity in Cuba.
- 5) The paper indicates that religious "processions on holydays are banned;" all public religious processions are banned, on holydays and non-holydays.
- 6) The paper indicates that early in the revolution, "hundreds of native priests were expelled;" hundreds of priests were indeed expelled but almost all were foreign born.

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- 7) The paper mentions church buildings being desecrated "such as the ones on the Isle of Pines, Villanueva, and San Francisco;" the Isle of Pines was renamed the Isle of Youth years ago; Villanueva presumably refers to the name of the institution rather than a placename; San Francisco presumably refers to the name of the church or to the locality San Francisco de Paula outside Havana.
- 8) The paper refers to the Ministry of Labor; the correct title is the State Committee for Labor and Social Security.
- 9) The paper fails to mention the Padilla case when discussing persecution of intellectuals; the arrest of Heberto Padilla and his wife (both are now believed to be in the US) was a cause celebre that drew criticism of the Castro regime from dozens of top intellectuals in both Latin America and West Europe.
- 10) The paper fails to mention perhaps the most blatant personal intervention by Fidel Castro in the legal process; when a court in 1959 found airmen innocent of charges that they had bombed civilian populations during the 1957-58 guerrilla war, Castro personally intervened, had the airmen retried, and had them convicted.
- 11) The paper says "choice of occupation does not exist;" we believe this to be an exaggeration because there indeed is some freedom of choice (those who want to make a career of the military, for example, can apply to do so just as those who want to follow some other profession can; they may be weeded out on the basis of academic or political criteria but some do succeed in the career of their choice).
- 12) The paper gives the impression that all school children at the age of 12 are put into boarding schools; many are but most are not (Cuba simply does not have the facilities to put all junior and senior highschool level students into boarding schools).

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13. If this paper is released without revision as a document of the US Government, we believe it will not be difficult for the Castro regime as well as regime sympathizers in the US and West Europe to exploit these weaknesses to discredit the paper. Moreover, we cannot substantiate many of the claims of arrest, persecution, and execution that are made in the paper and believe some are based on hear-say evidence that is very weak.

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Deputy Director  
African and Latin American Analysis

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Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

NOTE FOR: Mr. Otto J. Reich  
S/LPD, State Department

SUBJECT: Review of Paper On Human  
Rights in Cuba

We have reviewed the draft paper on Human rights in Cuba, which generally portrays the situation as it exists in Cuba today. However, there are a few inaccuracies in the draft that, if not corrected, tend to detract from the quality and depth of research on which it is based. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact

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African and Latin American Analysis

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Remarks

To 19: Please respond direct with copy to ER.

Executive Secretary  
12 July 85

Date

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United States Department of State

*Coordinator of Public Diplomacy for  
Latin America and the Caribbean*

Washington, D.C. 20520

Executive Registry

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July 9, 1985

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TO:

Executive Secretary  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Room 7E13 Hqs.  
Washington, D.C. 20505

FROM: S/LPD - Otto J. Reich

SUBJECT: Paper on Human Rights in Cuba

This office has received the attached draft from a contractor. We would like to have your comments and clearance by COB Monday, July 15, 1985. The final document will be distributed publicly by the Department.

Attachment:

As stated.

cc: S/LPD - Ms. Antonia Greenman



HUMAN RIGHTS IN CUBA



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